tests/written examination for the doctors every five years in Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Medical Council of India has been consulted in the matter and if so, its reaction thereto; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to put obligations to carrying out these tests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) There has been a scheme for providing Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme to Registered Medical Practitioner under MCI. However, the same is not linked to the compulsory renewal of registration of doctors after five years.

Population control by States

4736. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government encouraged the State Governments to implement any population control programms and if so, the details thereof;

(b) how many States in the country implemented the policy of two child norms and the details of such States; and

(c) the States which recorded the least and the highest population rates in the country-considering the ratio of population after the last census?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) National Population Policy (NPP) adopted in Feb. 2000 affirms the commitment of Government towards voluntary and informed choice and consent of citizens while availing of reproductive healthcare services. State Governments have been advised to formulate State Population Policy with State specific strategies while maintaining the general spirit of National Population Policy, 2000.

(b) Eight States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan have adopted two child norm for selectively, as eligibility criteria for election to the local Government institutions, selection and promotion in Government jobs, etc.

(c) The latest percentage decadal growth was recorded by Kerala (9.43%) while Nagaland recorded the highest growth (64.53%).